



THE ROLE OF CASH WAQF IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION: CASE OF MALAYSIA

Presenter:

ASSOC. PROF. DR. SAİM KAYADİBİ
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
Deputy Director
International Affairs Division (IAD)

Members:

Farhah binti Saifuddin Prof. Refik Polat Prof. Yahya Fidan Omer Kayadibi

Waqf Institutions have been long used as one of the prominent tools for alleviating poverty among the society.















Misconception:

Unfortunately, the majority of the general public are of the opinion that waqf should be used only for religious purposes for example the building of mosques and religious schools.

This is quite Unfortunate, the waqf has great potential to be one of the main contributors to the development of socio-economic of the society, especially in the poverty alleviation.



THE CONCEPT OF WAQF AND CASH WAQF

The term "waqf" is derived from the word "waqafa" which means to hold still and last long.

Waqf is "a voluntary act of charity"

Waqf is referring to the act of discharging one's ownership of an asset and transferring the ownership to the general public which can be land waqf or cash waqf.

Cash waqf can be defined as "the dedication of some money from one's possessions and establishing a waqf based on that amount and offering it to the benefit of people generally or allocating it to make use of them by some segments of the community particularly".

From an economic standpoint:

Waqf is an act of diverting funds and also other resources, from consumption and investing them in productive assets that promise either usufruct or revenues for future consumption by individuals or group of individuals.



THE BACKGROUND OF LAND WAQF:

The first waqf: the Quba' Mosque by the Prophet S.A.W.

Land of Khaybar by Umar Al-Khattab

The well by Uthman bin Affan

During the Ottoman Empire: everything was financed by the waqf system such as health care, education, welfare, eliminating poverty, etc

THE BACKGROUND OF CASH WAQF

During the time of the Prophet S.A.W, the companions utilized the institution of waqf as a medium to donate their farmland for development purposes.

Emphasizing that, the concept of cash waqf is often related to the Osmanli (Ottoman) Empire.

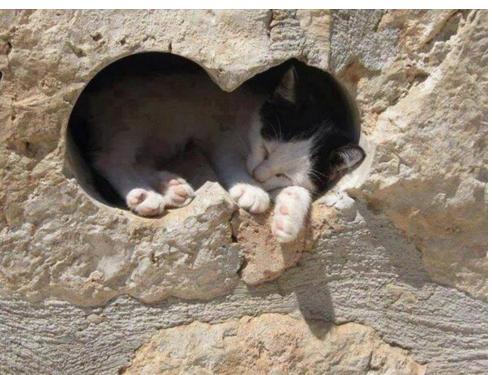
The cash endowments become very famous throughout the Osmanli Empire. It is also channeled to microfinance initiatives.













EFFECTIVENESS OF CASH WAQF

- a) Cash waqf is easy in nature and only requires small amount of wealth,
- b) Cash waqf is able to generate more funds that could be used for development of assets, for example, undeveloped waqf lands
- c) Cash waqf could assists education institutions with cash flow problems by creating a backup fund for them.
- d) It is able to reduce the dependency of Islamic institutions on the government, empowering them to be more independent.
- Al-Azhar University, (established in 975 AD) in Egypt, was built on cash waqf funds.
- Cash waqf can be potentially effective in establishing income generating activities.

PROBLEMS IN WAQF MANAGEMENT

The weaknesses of waqf is the voluntary nature of the waqf itself.

In case of unqualified mutawalli or waqf managers.

Sensitivity of it which may fall in to usury (riba) transections.



PROBLEMS IN CASH WAQF MANAGEMENT

In the case of Malaysia, 3 critical issues have been identified:

"The clarification on how to develop the cash waqf according to the scholars,

Legislation obstacles, constitutional framework.

The problem of *Baitul Mal's administration that is inefficient and* unsystematic. Due to lack of human resources."

cont.....

Significant numbers of waqf assets in Malaysia that are left unutilized due to factors such as:

- a) No proper documentation and registration.
- b) Insufficient waqf revenues to cover operational cost of the waqf asset.
- c) The unproductive nature and the inability to self generate income of the waqf assets.
- d) Lack of survey of existing waqf, proper monitoring and consolidation for the sustainable development of these waqf properties.
- e) Lack of qualified personnels in cash waqf.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION POLICIES IN MALAYSIA

One unique trait of Malaysia is the Malaysian society is made of different ethnicities and religions. The three main races in Malaysia are the Malays, Chinese and Indians.

During the late 1960s, one of the major social issues faced by the Malaysian government is the large income disparity between different races in the country.

The issue was so severe that it caused the 13th May 1969 riot between the Malays and Chinese.

The government responded to the riot incident by the introduction of the New Economic Policy which was implemented in 1971.

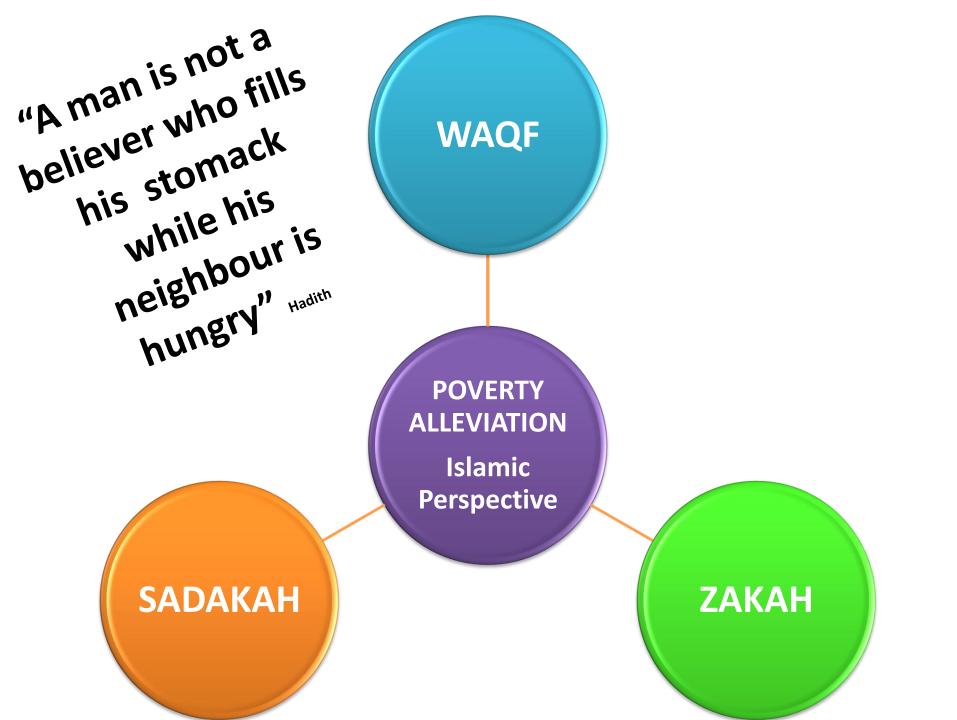
The New Economic Policy:

- a) To eradicate poverty by raising income levels of Malaysians regardless of ethnicity,
- b) To restructure the society
- c) To improve the quality of life of the poor by improving the poor's accessibility to social services.
- d) To increase the income and productivity of the poor by the expansion of their productive capital and efficient capital utilization by adopting modern techniques.
- e) To increase employment opportunities.

New Economic Policy has resulted to favourable results in eradication of poverty.

As at 2012, the incidence of poverty in Malaysia is 1.7 compared to 49.3 in 1970.

The identification of ethnicity based on their economic functions has also reduced significantly although there are still some sectors which are monopolized by a certain ethnic group.











Terima Kasih

شكرا لكم

Thank You

The presenter may be contacted at skayadibi@yahoo.com
01139090475